

RELEASED IN PART  
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PTQ8190

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ACTION AF-01

KIGALI 02474 030856Z

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	OASY-00	DODE-00
	SRPP-00	EB-01	FBIE-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-06
	JUSE-00	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	PA-01
	PRS-01	P-01	SP-00	SS-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	USIE-00
	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/027W			

-----DFC178 030857Z /38

R 030851Z AUG 95  
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
TO USMISSION GENEVA  
SECSTATE WASHDC 1132  
INFO RWANDA COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 002474

E.O. 12356: 20 YEARS  
TAGS: PHUM, PINS, RW  
SUBJECT: [ ] VIEWS ON THE PRISON PROBLEM

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REF: A.) KIGALI 2409; B.) KIGALI 2444; C.) GENEVA 5880

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. CHARGE CALLED ON [ ]  
[ ] AUGUST SECOND TO DISCUSS GITARAMA PRISON  
AND THE PRISON PROBLEM IN GENERAL. [ ] ACKNOWLEDGED  
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THAT CONDITIONS AT GITARAMA HAD IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY

SINCE THE VIDEO REPORTED IN REF C HAD BEEN MADE IN THE  
JUNE OR EARLY JULY. THE VIDEO, HE SAID, HAD BEEN  
INTENDED AS AN ARCHIVAL DOCUMENT FOR INTERNAL USE [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] AS A HISTORICAL RECORD. EXAMPLES OF IMPROVEMENT:

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--THE INCIDENCE OF EDEMA OF THE FEET WITHIN THE  
PRISON HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO NEAR ZERO BY THE  
EXPEDIENT OF MOVING THE PRISONERS WORST EFFECTED TO  
A NEARBY HOSPITAL; THIS INCLUDED SEVERAL HUNDRED  
CASES.

--A FULL-TIME DOCTOR, WITH MEDICAL STAFF, PAID FOR  
BY CARITAS, CAME ON BOARD JUST AFTER THE VIDEO WAS  
MADE.

--[REDACTED] WAS NOT SURE IF THE VIDEO SHOWED THE NEW  
ADDITION, WHICH WILL DOUBLE THE PRISON'S SIZE, AND  
WHICH IS NEARING COMPLETION. WORK WAS UNDERWAY ON  
THIS ADDITION WHEN THE VIDEO WAS MADE.

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3. [REDACTED] STRESSED THAT ICRC'S MISSION WAS STRICTLY  
HUMANITARIAN, AND THAT HE SAW ITS AIM OF INCREASING  
DETENTION CENTER CAPACITY AS A STOPGAP MEASURE ONLY UNTIL  
POLITICAL SOLUTIONS TO THE OVERCROWDING PROBLEM WERE  
FOUND. HE WAS CAREFUL TO REJECT THE IDEA OF "PRISON  
BUILDING," WHICH TO HIM IMPLIED LONG-TERM INCARCERATION.  
HE WAS LOOKING FOR THE SHORT-TERM SOLUTION OF CONVERTING  
TEA WAREHOUSES OR EVEN STADIA INTO TEMPORARY DETENTION  
CENTERS. A NEW CAMP WITH A CAPACITY OF 5000 SHOULD BE  
OPEN WITHIN A FEW WEEKS, HE SAID.

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4. EMPTYING THE PRISONS: [REDACTED] SAID THAT IT WAS FOLLY  
----- TO BELIEVE THAT RWANDA COULD  
HOLD 50,000 GENOCIDE TRIALS. HE SAID HE HAD TOLD THE  
GERMAN AMBASSADOR, UNDER ORDERS AFTER THE VISIT OF GERMAN  
FONMIN KINKEL TO REPORT MORE FULLY ON THE PRISON PROBLEM,  
THAT GERMANY DID NOT HAVE THE CAPACITY TO HOLD THAT MANY  
TRIALS, AND HE TOLD CHARGE THAT HE DOUBTED THE U.S. WOULD  
BE ABLE TO DO IT EITHER. (SEPTTEL REPORTS COMMENTS OF  
MINISTER OF HEALTH KAREMERA ON THIS SUBJECT.) [REDACTED]

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GAVE HIS OPINION THAT THE GOR WAS NOT EVEN CONSIDERING TRIALS UNTIL THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL ISSUED ITS FIRST ARREST WARRANT. HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT ANY WARRANT WOULD BE ISSUED BEFORE 1996. [REDACTED] HAD PREVIOUSLY WORKED [REDACTED] IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA, AND HE SAID THAT HIS EXPERIENCE WITH THE TRIBUNAL THERE DID NOT ENCOURAGE HIM TO EXPECT QUICK ACTION IN RWANDA. WHALEY

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